

HISTORY OF WILLIAM GILES
(Taken from Thomas H. Giles Journal)
By John W. Crook

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William Giles was born Jan. 1, 1797, at Gunerson near London in Mothingshire, England. He married Sarah Huskinson, East Bridge Ford about 1820. He learned the trade of brick making and the family followed that occupation while they remained in England. Even the girls helped in the brick-yard. Little is known of their lives until 1833, when we found the following in Uncle Thomas H. Giles writings. The moved from Calverton to Strelley on the 11 May 1833.

They lived there for six and one half years and probably to better their condition they moved to Broxhelme, Lincolnshire, England, on the sixth of June 1840 where they lived until Feb. 1844 when they moved to the city of Lincoln.

Myself and brother George were married while there. My sister Elizabeth was married in England. We became acquainted with the Godwin family who first told us of the restored gospel. We like many others seemed to have been prepared for the Gospel when we first heard it. I, Thomas H. Giles united myself with the General Baptist society in November 1846. I continued in this until I united myself with the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter Day Saints.

In the Fall of 1849 my wife's sister, Sarah Goodwin, came to Lincoln and told us about the Latter Day Saint and the coming forth of the Book of Mormon, Etc. We thought it something very strange but after reading the books which she left with us which were the Book of Mormon, Doctrine and Covenants and the Voice of Warning by Parley P. Pratt. We began to think there was something in the Doctrines of the church.

December 23, 1849 my mother, my wife and myself went to Hull on a visit to my wife's sister, Sarah Goodwin where we had an opportunity to learn more concerning this strange doctrine. Brother and sister Goodwin preached Mormonism and we went to meeting on the 23rd, and heard Elder Beecroft preach, after which we became pretty well satisfied of the truth. Mother, My wife and myself were baptized in the afternoon of Sunday by Henry Beecroft. We left Hull on the twenty seventh to return home.

In August 1850 Elder Joseph E. Taylor came to Lincoln to try to preach the gospel. He succeeded pretty well although he had strong opposition. He had many discussions with the New Testament Disciples and the Wesleyan Methodists and the principle opponent was a Mr. Lunford. Quite a number were baptized. We had a good time for a few weeks.

William Giles Sr. was baptized September 2, by Joseph E. Taylor and brother John November 4, From notes in the margin of Uncle Thomas' book the rest of the family were baptized between Sept. 2, 1850 to Jan. 1854. We began to prepare for migration by sending money to the office at Liverpool.

On the 23, February 1854 we received word from S. W. Richards to be ready to leave Liverpool about the tenth of March of that year but on the second of March we received word to be there within twenty four hours. You can imagine the bustling and rustling to and fro to prepare for such a journey. We all arrived in Liverpool except father and mother about twelve O'clock P. M. Some of us stayed at the station while some of us went to the office of W. S. Richards and paid our passage money. We also paid father's and mother's with the understanding that if they were not in Liverpool before the ship was out to sea they were to have passage on the next ship that sailed. For we would like to do the best we could under the circumstances. We then went back to the railroad station, and engaged a man, horse and cart to take baggage down to the ship. The lay in the Huskinson docks. It was the last docks out of Liverpool. We got our baggage on board about sundown. We slept on board the ship March 4. Saturday March 5, in the morning, some of the family went into town to purchase things for the voyage and to the office of S. W. Richards to see if father and mother had arrived. About an hour after they had gone it was said that no baggage would be taken aboard after twelve O'clock as the ship would move out soon after that time. So brother John and myself went ashore to get flour and potatoes. When we got these things our people had not returned. It was then said that the ship would be off directly. So I went to hasten them up. The captain was then on board and said he would not wait if half the passengers were on shore. I found him to be a man of his word. I do not think half the passengers that came across

with us were ashore when the ship left the moorings in the dock but they got aboard as the ship passed along the docks except my father and mother. We were about one mile in the river Mersey and then came to anchor for the night. A very beautiful sight it was to see the ships and the steam packets passing. Also the view of the town. It was a nice, still and sunshiny afternoon which we would have enjoyed very much if father and mother had been there. Yet we all tried to carry the best side out and to appear cheerful. About sundown we beheld a boat making for the ship that we were on and to our joy father and mother were among the passengers. This set us all aright. About twelve O'clock we drew anchor in a fine breeze. A steamer took us a few miles down the river.

The voyage from Liverpool to New Orleans was made in one month and twenty days on the sailing vessel "New England". We arrived at New Orleans the 25th of April. We took passage on the steam packet St. Nicholas on the 28th for St. Lewis where we arrived on the 6th of May 1854, about eight O'clock A.M. When we arrived at Quarrentine St. Lewis the doctor came on board. He passed all hands as being in good health but we were soon to find out that there were more on board at Council Bluffs than were allowed to land. The doctor and captain went or pretended to go to St. Lewis to see if they would allow them to enter. So we found about eleven or twelve O'clock that the English emigrants were to be quarrentined and we also found out that it was not the English in particular but the Mormons that had to stop so they set the sailors to move our baggage off the packet or vessel and put on another vessel called 'Hannibal', so we should not be allowed to pass into the city until we had washed all our things so it was considered best to do and wash all our things immediatly. We washed all afternoon. The next day was Sunday 4th. We washed all day and expected to go Monday but the next day sickness broke out among the company. One sister of the company died. My mother was taked quite ill, and we were detained until the 11th, when we were permitted to land.

My sister Elizabeth, wife of Thomas Rasband came down from Quincy and met us in St. Lewis. We took passage on the Denorr from Quincy after a few hours stay in St. Lewis. My sister Elizabeth and brother George and families came to America a few years before. The former's husband, Thomas Rasband found employment at Quincy. He and his family lived there for a few years. Brother George and family settled at Burlington, Iowa. We arrived in Quincy about twelve O'clock of the 11th. I found work there and remained there for one year and eleven months. We left Quincy by boat for Burlington on the 12th of April 1856. At this place we got an outfit to cross the plains. My cow gave out and I had to replace it by trading for a steer. The roads were bad. May 7 roads bad only traveled about seven miles today. May 8th roads very bad today did very little traveling. Got one wagon six miles. Moved Brother Spratly's about three miles. Moved my wagon about one mile and Mr. Johnsons' about one half mile.

It seems that father and mother had made their way across Iowa sometime during the twenty-three months between landing in St. Louis and this time. Father, Wm. Giles, came from Bluffs the 11th of May. On the 5th of June they commenced their journey across the plains. The company consisted of twenty-six wagons at this time. More joined them on the 10th, making a company of sixty-four wagons.

Following taken from John W. Crooks writings or journal which was taken from his father's journal, John Crook.

My father We My Grandfather William Giles, and Grandmother, Sarah Huskinson Giles arrived in Salt Lake on Saturday August 15, 1856. They remained in Salt Lake a few days. Then grandfather and wife and all the children came to Provo.

The hardships and exposures and climate seemed too much for grandmother, she died Sept. 5, 1857. She was buried in Provo Cemetary. Grandfather married Mary W. Day, Nov. 1859 who was born Aug 6, 1794. They all came to Heber in 1859-1860 but John who always remained in Provo.

My Grandfather passed the remainder of his days in peace, in Heber. His wife died Dec. 5, 1874. He lived but ten days, later dying on the 15th. They were buried side by side in the Heber City cemetary.

compiled by
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